

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

*Carol A. Murray, Commissioner`*

**For Immediate Release**

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**NHDOT AERONAUTICS DIRECTOR TO CO-PILOT FLIGHT TO KITTY HAWK**  
**JACK FERNS JOINING CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF POWERED FLIGHT**

NHDOT Aeronautics Director Jack Ferns will serve as co-pilot in flying the official New Hampshire state flag to the Wright Brothers National Memorial site in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

The flight is part of New Hampshire's participation in "50 Flags to Kitty Hawk", a national aviation celebration created by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and the National Park Service to help commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of powered flight. Ferns will accompany Manchester-based pilot Robert Hough, who will fly Hough's 1943 Grumman Widgeon amphibious aircraft non-stop to Kitty Hawk on July 23, 2003.

Hough, a manufacturing quality assurance engineer, is one of 50 EAA members chosen – one from each state – to participate in the "50 Flags to Kitty Hawk" program, in which flags from all of the United States are flown to Kitty Hawk, NC, prior to December 1, 2003. Upon arrival, EAA-member pilots will take part in official flag presentation ceremonies, and their State Flag will be raised and flown at the Wright Brothers National Memorial site on that respective day.

"Being chosen to participate in '50 Flags to Kitty Hawk' and represent New Hampshire as part of this year-long program is a distinct honor," Robert Hough says. "I'm especially pleased that Jack Ferns, who has a long and active history with NH aviation, will co-pilot the trip with me."

The "50 Flags to Kitty hawk" program is a part of EAA's "Countdown to Kitty Hawk" national initiative, presented by Ford Motor Company, and supported by Microsoft Flight Simulator and Eclipse Aviation. Other elements of "Countdown to Kitty Hawk" include the construction of an exact flying reproduction of the 1903 Wright flyer, and a six-stop national tour of EAA's "Countdown to Kitty Hawk" exhibit, which includes the Flyer and numerous interactive aviation displays. The tour will culminate in Kitty Hawk, NC, when as part of the Centennial of Flight Celebration, EAA's Wright Flyer will fly at 10:35 a.m. on Dec. 17, 2003 – precisely 100 years to the minute from when the Wrights made history.

For more information on EAA's "Countdown to Kitty Hawk" program, search the website at [www.countdowntokittyhawk.com](http://www.countdowntokittyhawk.com)

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